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Message Text

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ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

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----------083353 020254Z /73
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM NIACT IMMEDIATE
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INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
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AMEMBASSY LILONGWE IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN IMMEDIATE
WHITE HOUSE

S E C R E T STATE 053342

EXDIS DISTRIBUTE AS NODIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2-3

TAGS: PDEV, RH, UK

SUBJECT: RHODESIA: RESPONSE TO OWEN LETTER AND TALKING POINTS FOR USE WITH FRONT LINE AND NIGERIA

REF: STATE 49706

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1. HEREWITH ARE TALKING POINTS FOR USE WITH FRONT LINE STATES AND NIGERIA AS AMENDED AND AGREED BETWEEN FCO AND DEPARTMENT. FCO WILL SEND SIMILAR INSTRUCTIONS TO YOUR BRITISH COUNTERPART. YOU SHOULD CONSULT WITH HIM AND MAKE A JOINT APPROACH TO PASS MESSAGE CONTAINED IN TALKING POINTS TO HIGHEST POSSIBLE LEVEL OF YOUR HOST GOVERNMENT AT EARLIEST CONVENIENT MOMENT.

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2. BEGIN TEXT:

-- WE CONTINUE TO SHARE WITH YOU AS THE PRIMARY GOAL
IN RHODESIA A GENUINE TRANSFER OF AUTHORITY TO THE
MAJORITY OF THE POPULATION THROUGH A PROCESS WHICH
GUARANTEES THE OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PEOPLE OF ZIMBABWE
TO CHOOSE THEIR OWN LEADERS UNDER IMPARTIAL CIRCUMSTANCES.
THE AAP SO FAR SEEMS TO US TO PROVIDE THE BEST WAY TO
ACHIEVE THIS RESULT.

-. DIVISIONS WITHIN THE PF, AND ITS CONTINUED INSISTENCE
ON A DOMINANT ROLE FOR ITSELF DURING THE NEGOTIATIONS
AND THE TRANSITION PERIOD HAVE KEPT US FROM MOVING AHEAD
WITH THE AAP.

-- WE DO NOT THINK THAT AN INTERNAL SETTLEMENT IS ASSURED:
INDEED OUR REACTION HAS BEEN ONE OF HEALTHY SKEPTICISM.
DESPITE STRONG POLITICAL FORCES IN OUR OWN COUNTRIES
WE HAVE NOT ACCEPTED THE SALISBURY AGREEMENT.

-- AT THE SAME TIME, FRANKLY, DEVELOPMENTS IN SALISBURY
HAVE CREATED A SITUATION WHICH WE CANNOT IGNORE. THE
APPARENT ACCEPTANCE BY SMITH OF ONE-MAN-ONE VOTE HAS
GIVEN MANY PEOPLE THE IMPRESSION THAT HE HAS AT LAST
ACCEPTED A GENUINE TRANSFER OF AUTHORITY TO THE MAJORITY
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OF THE POPULATION.

-- WE RECOGNIZE THAT IN FACT THE SALISBURY TALKS ARE A
LONG WAY FROM ACHIEVING AN OVERALL AGREEMENT WHICH
EMBODIES A GENUINE TRANSFER OF POWER. WE CANNOT PASS
JUDGMENT UNTIL THE DETAILS OF AN AGREEMENT ARE KNOWN,
BUT WHATEVER COMES OUT WILL BE COMPARED TO THE BRITISH-
AMERICAN PLAN AND MUST MEET THE ESSENTIAL TEST OF A
RELINQUISHMENT OF POWER BY SMITH AND A RAPID TRANSITION
TO GENUINE MAJORITY RULE AND INDEPENDENCE.

-- AS ONE MIGHT ASSUME, THE PURPOSE OF REV. SITHOLE'S
RECENT VISIT TO LONDON WAS ;O SEEK ENDORSEMENT OF THE
SALISBURY TALKS. DR. OWEN EXPLAINED IN SOME DETAIL OUR
SERIOUS CONCERN THAT THE AGREEMENTS NOW BEING NEGOTIATED
IN SALISBURY WILL NOT PRODUCE A GENUINE TRANSFER OF
POWER AND THEREFORE COULD NOT BE COUNTED ON TO END THE
WAR OR WIN INTERNATIONAL ACCEPTANCE. WE ARE ALSO
MAKING CLEAR TO THE INTERNAL NATIONALISTS OUR DESIRE TO
ACHIEVE A SETTLEMENT THAT WOULD INCLUDE ALL THE PARTIES.

-- WE WANT TO GET YOUR VIEWS ON HOW TO PROCEED IN CIR-

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CUMSTANCES WHERE PF WILL NOT AGREE TO OUR MINIMUM ESSENTIALS AND SITHOLE, MUZOREWA, AND SMITH MAY REACH SOME AGREEMENT IN SALISBURY. SUCH AN OUTCOME WOULD CREATE PROBLEMS FOR ALL OF US.

-- IT WOULD ALSO BE HELPFUL FOR US TO HAVE YOUR VIEWS ON HOW WE COULD CONTINUE DISCUSSIONS ON DETAILS OF THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PLAN, KEEPING IN MIND THE IMPORTANCE OF ITS BEING A PLAN THAT ALL PARTIES CAN BE BROUGHT TO ACCEPT.

-- ANOTHER MEETING WITH THE PF THAT ONLY ENDS IN DIS-AGREEMENT OVER THE POWERS OF THE RESIDENT COMMISSIONER AND OVER CONTROL OF THE POLICE AND MILITARY FORCES WOULD BE HARMFUL TO OUR CAUSE. IT WOULD STRENGTHEN SMITH'S

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HAND AND LEAVE US FURTHER FROM A SATISFACTORY SOLUTION THAN EVER, AS WELL AS SUBJECT US TO A GREAT DEAL OF CRITICISM WHICH WOULD TIE OUR HANDS.

-- MOREOVER, THE GRATUITOUS ATTACK ON OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS IN THE PF STATEMENT OF FEBRUARY 25 RAISES QUESTIONS ABOUT WHETHER THE PF IS INTERESTED IN SUCH TALKS, AND COMPLICATES OUR POLITICAL PROBLEM EVEN FURTHER.

-- WE REMAIN COMMITTED TO THE PRINCIPLES OF THE AAP AND WE HAVE BEEN DEEPLY APPRECIATIVE OF YOUR SUPPORT FOR OUR EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE OUR MUTUAL GOAL, AN INDEPENDENT MAJORITY-RULED ZIMBABWE. WE LOOK FORWARD TO CONTINUING TO HAVE YOUR HELP AND UNDERSTANDING AS WE WORK TOWARDS THAT GOAL IN THE CRITICAL DAYS AHEAD.

-- IT IS OUR STRONG CONVICTION THAT ANY ACTIVITY IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL SHOULD BE UNDERTAKEN ONLY AS PART OF A BROADER STRATEGY TO BRING ABOUT AN INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTABLE SETTLEMENT OF THE RHODESIA QUESTION.

-- WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE QUITE DAMAGING TO OUR COMMON INTERESTS IN ACHIEVING THAT OBJECTIVE IF THE MATTER WERE BROUGHT UP IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL PREMATURELY.

-- FOR THESE REASONS, WE HOPE THAT THE (FRONT LINE STATES AND NIGERIA) WILL NOT SEEK SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION AT THIS TIME AND THAT ANY ACTION IN THE UN WOULD BE UNDER-TAKEN ONLY IN PHASE WITH WHAT WE ARE SEEKING TO DO IN RHODESIA AND IN CONSULTATION WITH US. THIS IS NOT THE TIME FOR SURPRISES EITHER IN TERMS OF SECURITY COUNCIL MEETINGS OR RESOLUTIONS.

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-- AT THE PROPER TIME, HOWEVER, WE WOULD WELCOME A GENERAL DEBATE ON RHODESIA IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL IN WHICH ALL THE PARTIES WOULD HAVE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO STATE THEIR CASE.

END TEXT. VANCE

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